

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR, (BILLINGTON, JAMES)

SUBJECT: BILLINGTON VISIT TO USSR

RE PROSPECTIVE BILLINGTON VISIT(DEPARTURE SEPT 25) TO USSR,
DEPT IS ENCOUNTERING RESISTANCE AT SOVIET EMBASSY IN OBTAIN-
ING SOVIET VISA. SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS CONTEND
BILLINGTON IS "NOT ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY TO USSR". DEPT
REQUESTS EMBASSY, AT ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR LEVEL,
EMPHASIZE TO APPROPRIATE MFA OFFICIALS OFFICIAL NATURE OF
BILLINGTON VISIT, STRESSING THAT BILLINGTON IS
PRESIDENTIALLY-APPOINTED MEMBER OF BOARD OF FOREIGN
SCHOLARSHIPS (BFS), AND WILL ENTER ON DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT.
MOST IMPORTANT, BILLINGTON WILL BE DISCUSSING OFFICIAL
EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH APPROPRIATE SOVIET OFFICIALS DURING
HIS VISIT. ROBINSON

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